

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 155

May 23, 1996, 4:41 p.m.  
Page S-5525 Temp. Record

## BUDGET RESOLUTION/\$6.5 Billion Tax Hike for Water Works-Sewers-Parks

**SUBJECT:** Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1997-2002 . . . S. Con. Res. 57. Byrd amendment No. 4040.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 45-54

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. Con. Res. 57, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1997-2002, will balance the Federal budget in fiscal year (FY) 2002 by slowing the overall rate of growth in spending over the next 6 years to below the rate of growth in revenue collections. The rate of growth in entitlements such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and the Earned Income Credit will be slowed. No changes will be made to the Social Security program, the spending for which will grow from \$348 billion in FY 1996 to \$467 billion in FY 2002. Defense spending will be essentially frozen at its present level.

**The Byrd amendment** would increase spending by \$6.5 billion, with \$5 billion of that amount to be spent on rural water and sewer programs, and \$1.5 billion to be spent on the national park system. To pay for that increased spending, the amendment would require an increase in revenue collections over 6 years of \$6.5 billion.

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

All across America millions of residents in rural communities continue to suffer from inadequate water and sewer services. There are 3 million households in the United States in need of safe, clean drinking water, mostly in rural areas. The cost of providing that water will be about \$10 billion. Of that amount, \$3.5 billion will be needed to meet critical safe drinking water needs. At current funding levels, only \$3.5 billion will be provided over the next 6 years. The need for more Federal spending on sewer systems in rural areas is just as pressing. Overall, \$20 billion is needed, and at least \$7.3 billion of that amount should be provided in the next 6 years to meet the most critical needs. The Byrd amendment would help meet the sewer and water needs of rural areas by spending an additional \$5 billion on them. For the national parks, this amendment will provide an additional \$1.5 billion. That spending is

(See other side)

YEAS (45)		NAYS (54)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (44 or 96%)	Republicans (52 or 98%)	Democrats (2 or 4%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Simpson	Akaka Baucus Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings Inouye	Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone Wyden	Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Biden Robb
					Bumpers- <sup>2</sup>
<b>EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:</b> 1—Official Business 2—Necessarily Absent 3—Illness 4—Other					
<b>SYMBOLS:</b> AY—Announced Yea AN—Announced Nay PY—Paired Yea PN—Paired Nay					

Compiled and written by the staff of the Republican Policy Committee—Don Nickles, Chairman

greatly needed because the national parks have been underfunded in recent years, and they are in a dilapidated state. To pay for this increased spending, the Byrd amendment would direct the Finance Committee to increase the amount of revenue collected. It could meet this requirement by closing corporate tax loopholes. We believe this amendment carefully targets two areas in need of greater funding, and responsibly proposes increased tax collections to pay for that funding. We urge Senators to accept this amendment.

**Those opposing** the amendment contended:

We have already proposed and agreed to an amendment today to increase overall spending by \$5 billion in budget authority and \$4 billion in outlays. We think that is more than enough of an increase in the size of the Federal Government for one day. If our colleagues have any proposals to reduce other spending to pay for this amendment, we would be delighted to hear them. Unfortunately, for the past 2 days we have been deluged with all kinds of ideas from the Democratic side of the aisle for increasing spending and raising taxes, but we have not heard them advance any proposals for cutting spending in lower priority areas to pay for their proposed spending increases. Additionally, Senators should be aware that this resolution already assumes full funding for both water and sewer programs and for the national parks. Finally, agreeing to this amendment would not guarantee that even one cent of the extra money would be spent on these purposes. The Appropriations Committee would have full authority to divvy up the funds as it pleased. In the final analysis, we are not about to make the Federal Government even bigger by increasing taxing and spending by yet another \$6.5 billion. Therefore, we oppose the Byrd amendment.